GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1401
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to protect consumer`s rights and interests with regard to the safe food;

(b) whether consumers are being informed about the ill effects of genetically modified food on their lives and choices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a),(b),(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir; Biosafety Guidelines in India are exhaustive and adequate to assess the risks, if any, from the use of Genetically Modified(GM) foods. No GM food has yet been released to the consumers. Before releasing any GM food, biosafety assessment including safety of such food to human and animal health is mandatory under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act. As and when GM Food would be ready for commercialisation, consumers would be fully informed. Work has been initiated to finalise a set of guidelines for this.